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Membership Fees

\$40 per Person
Subs due July each year

Sunraysia Bushwalkers

April 2014

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Affiliated with:

**Bushwalking
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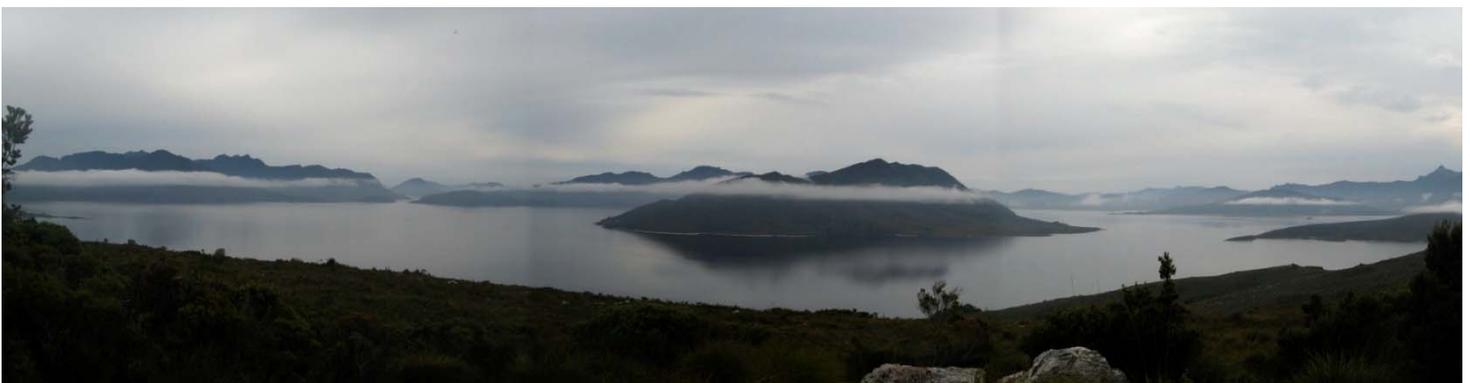


In this issue:

- ❖ **A Report on Being Lost?**
- ❖ **At our next meeting – Special Speaker**
- ❖ **Events coming up this month**

To view the complete calendar, please follow the link:

<http://www.sunbushwalk.net.au/calendarofactivities.html>



BEING LOST ON A WALK

It is a bit of a worry when you reflect back on earlier writings and realize that this is the third time that you have had as a subject 'getting lost'. The previous two times related to night-time sojourns occasioned by the desire to attend a "Loo". This time it was full sunlight and on one of the most popular walking tracks in Australia – a section of the 'Overland Track' in Tasmania.

Let me set the scene

A group of 6 from our Club had walked from the Walls of Jerusalem via The Never Never to the Overland Track and had camped at Windy Ridge overnight. When we were preparing to depart, one of us headed off for the mandatory loo stop and I was approached by our leader to check if it was OK for the other 4 to start off as they were a bit slower and we two would catch them up. It was agreed that we would meet at Narcissus Hut for lunch before heading on further.

As it happened, the loo stop did not take that long and all six of us were standing around with our packs on ready to go when the 4 slower walkers got into a discussion over some signage indicating the various ranges that were visible from the hut. I suggested that we two head off as they seemed to be settling in for a long discussion and as it was our third time at Windy Ridge we were not interested in the conversation that was taking place. We moved off slowly (*Mistake No.1*) and stopped down the track a little way just to make sure that they were following. It was not long before we got into our stride and started to motor and enjoy the walk. We stopped for a rest at the turn-off to Pine Valley, but shortly thereafter headed off again confident that the four were following us. (*Mistake No. 2*)

The two of us arrived at Narcissus hut in about the time that it is indicated to make the journey; we then had a look around while waiting for the others. Various other groups walked into Narcissus and lined up to catch the ferry to Cynthia Bay.

I was at this stage starting to get a little concerned about the time it was taking for the others to catch up. I wandered back up the track until I met a group of about 9, who said that "they had seen 4 gentlemen on the track who had lost 2 of their companions" (*meaning, 'us'*), and that they were 'heading back to Windy Ridge to find them as they were (supposedly) behind at the start (*Mistake 3*). The group of 9 suggested that it would be a waste of effort, on my part, to go back for them. So I returned to Narcissus.

A short while later two of the four walked into Narcissus and I was for a short time greatly relieved that they had obviously not returned to Windy Ridge. My relief was short lived, as there were only two, the others had indeed gone back to Windy Ridge. I was also informed that the Ranger, who had come from Pine Valley, had met them and advised that he had not seen us, thus compounding the view that we were still back at Windy Ridge. So the two of us headed back up the track and met up with our walkers a little over half way back to Windy Ridge.

So what lessons can be drawn from this incident

- Mistake 1** I had assumed that our whole party knew that we were all prepared to depart when we were all standing around at Windy Ridge with our packs on ready to go. With hindsight I should have interrupted the conversation and announced that we were heading off.
- Mistake 2** Assuming that our undertaking to meet at Narcissus was still in train I did not see the need to wait for the other four at the halfway point – hindsight says that I should have waited.
- Mistake 3** The leader of the walk had only considered our arrangement was valid if the group of 4 had headed off first. Whereas I considered that it was a firm arrangement acknowledging that we were travelling faster.

What would I do differently in similar circumstances?

- Not assume that everyone is looking out for each other.
- Announce my intention when leaving.
- Confirm on departure our arrangement.

What would you do given the same set of facts?

You can be lost and not know it!

Report by Roger



SPECIAL SPEAKER

Our Special Speaker on Wednesday is the Project Officer, Ray De Groot, from the Mallee Catchment Management Authority

Ray will be talking on the surveying of Hattah Lakes/Chaulka Creek by the Club; assisting them with the identification of water weeds and the spread of these weeds within the Hattah Lakes system.

Saturday 5th April is the date set down for the first survey.



APRIL CALENDAR

2nd	Meeting	Club Rooms	Finalise trips to KI, Mutawintji & Mt Feathertop
5th	Canoe Trip	Hattah Lakes	Contact Roger 50257325 This is to inspect prior to next scheduled flooding event and do survey work.
6 th – 12th	Away Trip	Kangaroo Is, SA	Car camping with Day walks
25 th – 27th	3-4 Day Trip	Mutawinji, NSW	Contact Noel 50257455/0438456335
25 th - 27th	Carry Pack	Mt Feathertop	Contact Roger 50257325/0488121648

If you intend to participate in any of these events and do not attend the meeting on 2nd April ring the contact person now.

**Next Meeting
 Wednesday 2nd April at 8.00 pm
 at Drysdale's
 2164 Fifteenth Street,
 Irympleo**